

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for lung volume reduction, said method comprising:
isolating a lung tissue segment;
~~reducing gas flow obstructions within the segment; and~~
aspirating the segment through a lung passage to cause the segment to at least partially collapse; and
implanting a barrier formed at least in part from a metal composition which expands *in situ* across the lung passage.
2. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, ~~wherein reducing gas flow obstructions comprises~~ further comprising inflating the lung tissue segment to a pressure higher than its normal inflated pressure to reduce gas flow obstruction.
3. (Original) A method as in claim 2, further comprising deflating adjacent lung regions while the lung tissue segment is inflated.
4. (Original) A method as in claim 2, wherein inflating the lung tissue segment comprises positioning a catheter in an air passage leading into the segment, inflating a balloon on the catheter to seal the air passage, and introducing a gas through the catheter to inflate the segment.
5. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, ~~wherein reducing gas flow obstructions comprises~~ further comprising introducing an agent to the lung tissue segment, wherein the agent clears or dilates air passages within the segment to reduce gas flow obstructions.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of mucolytic agents, bronchodilators, surfactants, desiccants, solvents, necrosing agents, perfluorocarbons, and absorbents.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein introducing the agent comprises positioning a catheter in an air passage leading to the segment and delivering the agent through the catheter to the segment.

8. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, ~~wherein reducing gas flow obstructions comprises~~ further comprising delivering mechanical energy to the lung segment to reduce gas flow obstructions.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the mechanical energy is vibrational energy.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the vibrational energy is delivered by inflating the segment with a non-compressible fluid and ultrasonically exciting the fluid to distribute ultrasonic energy throughout the segment.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein isolating the lung tissue segment comprises positioning a catheter in an air passage leading to the lung tissue segment and inflating a balloon on the catheter to occlude the air passage.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein aspirating comprises drawing gas and liquids present from the isolated lung segment through a lumen in the catheter while the balloon remains inflated.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein aspirating is performed at a negative pressure in the range from 2 mmHg to 50 mmHg.

Claims 14-16 (canceled).

17. (Original) A method as in claim 16, wherein the plug comprises a collagen hydrogel which is not fully hydrated prior to deployment.

18. (currently amended) A method as in claim 14, wherein implanting a barrier further comprises ~~sealing~~ comprises introducing ~~a plug and~~ an adhesive in the air passage.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 18, wherein the adhesive includes a radiopaque tracer.

Claims 20-90 (canceled).

91. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein aspirating the segment is performed after implanting the barrier.

92. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the barrier comprises a metal frame and an air impermeable cover.

93. (New) A method as in claim 92, wherein the metal frame is resilient and adapted to expand upon release from constraint.

94. (New) A method as in claim 92, wherein the metal frame is balloon expandable.

95. (New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising inducing absorption atelectasis within the lung segment prior to aspirating the segment.

96. (New) A method as in claim 95, wherein inducing absorption atelectasis comprises insufflating the lung segment with a high oxygen concentration gas.

97. (New) A method as in claim 96, wherein the high oxygen concentration is at least 50% by volume.

98. (New) A method as in claim 96, wherein the high oxygen concentration is at least 75% by volume.

99. (New) A method as in claim 96, wherein the oxygen is substantially pure.

100. (New) A method as in claim 96, wherein the lung is lavaged with a mixture of oxygen and a low molecular weight gas.